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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6861**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1308

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 13, 2008

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** College Readiness Program.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Porter

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X **GENERAL**  
**DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill establishes the Voluntary Universal ACT Assessment Program. It specifies that the purpose of the program includes: (1) improvement of the college enrollment and participation rate; (2) ensuring a general, suitable, and efficient system of college and workforce readiness for students; (3) support for voluntary statewide ACT assessment for all grade 11 students; and (4) encouraging greater student participation in the Core 40 curriculum.

The bill specifies that, beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, a school may provide each grade 11 student with the opportunity to take the ACT assessment at no cost to the student.

The bill requires the Department of Education, in consultation with the Commission for Higher Education, to submit an annual report to the General Assembly.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2008.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** The Department of Education (DOE) could have some additional cost associated with developing, implementing, and administering the program. The funds and resources required for the program could be supplied through a variety of sources, including the following: (1) existing staff and resources not currently being used to capacity; (2) existing staff and resources currently being used in another program; (3) authorized, but vacant, staff positions, including those positions that would need to be reclassified; (4) funds that, otherwise, would be reverted; or (5) new appropriations. DOE had 76 vacant positions worth \$763,192 as of December 12, 2007. Of the vacant positions, 36 had been vacant for more than two years. DOES reverted about \$5.2 M to the state General Fund on June 30, 2007. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend upon legislative

and administrative actions.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** The bill allows schools to pay for the ACT test for 11<sup>th</sup> grade students. The impact would depend on the school corporation's decision to pay the ACT registration fee for 11<sup>th</sup> grade students.

The cost of the ACT test is \$30 without the writing portion and \$44.50 with the writing portion. There were 76,653 11<sup>th</sup> grader enrolled in public school for the 2006-07 school year. If all schools decided to provide the test to all students, the impact would be between \$2.3 M and \$3.4 M statewide.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Education.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Local Schools.

**Information Sources:**

**Fiscal Analyst:** Chuck Mayfield, 317-232-4825.